



15/73 (HE)
T.W.
6-5-03
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1764

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

SHIMANUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1724

Application No.: 09/764,391

Examiner: C. Bushey

Filed: January 19, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 106145-00016

For: HUMIDIFIER

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: May 30, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the outstanding Office Action dated January 30, 2003, the time period for response having been extended from April 30, 2003 until May 30, 2003 with the filing of the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 8 and 9 as follows:

8. (Amended) A humidification process utilizing a hollow fiber membrane module comprising a plurality of water-permeable hollow fiber membranes placed along the lengthwise direction of a housing accommodated within the housing, in which gases each having a different moisture content flow inside and outside said hollow fiber membranes to carry out moisture exchange whereby the dry air having a low moisture

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